

REMARKS

Claims 8 and 10-16 now stand in the present application, claims 1-7 having been canceled and claims 10-16 having been rewritten in independent form. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 8 and 10-16 and respectfully submits that in view of the above amendments all of these claims are now in condition for allowance.

More particularly, in the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 8 was allowable and that claims 10-16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In order to expeditiously place this case in condition for allowance, Applicant has canceled claims 1-7 and rewritten claims 10-16 in independent form as suggested by the Examiner.

Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all of claims 8 and 10-16, now standing in the application, be allowed and that the case be passed to issue. If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a supplemental response or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is


KOJIMA, Takashi
Serial No. **09/817,133**
April 1, 2003

respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone exchange indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____


Chris Comuntzis
Reg. No 31,097

CC:lmr
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100